

case of IISCO to my notice, where apparently same sort of decision is going to be taken. Can the Government continue to betray the trust of the people in such a manner again and again?

Inevitably, this Government has also bent its knees in the international arena. The nation watched in shocked dismay as the hijackers of IC-814 and their terrorist backers were shamefully appeased. The sight of the External Affairs Minister escorting to Kandahar men who had been imprisoned for their crimes, will not—I repeat will not—be erased from the mind of our people. The Congress Party is also extremely concerned at the creeping dependence on external intervention in the affairs of our region.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sharp deterioration in the internal security situation in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the continuing failure to stem or to moderate infiltration across the LoC, not withstanding the empty boasts we used to hear before Kargil, are a matter of deep, deep concern to all of us. There does not seem to be any progress either in political initiatives to restore normalcy or in diplomatic action.

Externally sponsored terrorism is on the increase in the North-Eastern areas of our country. I must point out to this House that instead of provoking further disruption by threatening the repeal of the IMDT Act, instead of concentrating on its implementation, the Government is actually aggravating matters in that most sensitive border region of our country. Promises of special packages and reserving 10 per cent of the Budget expenditure for the North-East have been made again and again but I am afraid they remained very much on paper. They are not fulfilled.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, of late, we have also heard conflicting statements on Non-alignment. I would like to point out that the Non-alignment was not just our response to a world divided by power blocs. Non-alignment was an assertion of our sovereignty in our external affairs. It was the self-reliant foreign policy of a self-confident, peace-loving country. That independence of thought and action in international affairs is now in jeopardy as foreign policy, I believe, lurches from one misplaced enthusiasm to another with very poor preparation and little regard for the long-term.

The country, we all know, has had to pay a heavy price for the naivete of the Lahore Bus ride at a time when the Government ought to have known, and, I believe at a time when the Government did know that our frontiers were being breached by our hosts. Now, all of us in the Congress and in other parties, must be vigilant. Our

fundamental national interests cannot be compromised as this Government stumbles from one ill-thought out action into another.

But, Sir, before I conclude, I would like to say a word about the States which are now facing tremendous odds because of the drought. I am told that we have food stocks which according to experts are almost double of what is required for the food security of our country. I would, therefore, urge the Government, through you, to urgently increase the pace of food for Work and other relief programmes and measures in all those affected areas. During the Orissa cyclone, the Government never quite provided required help to the people of Orissa. There was a very definite and strong perception that this was done because there was an Opposition Government in power. Mr. Speaker Sir, I would, therefore, through you, urge the Prime Minister not to deal with this problem with a cold political heart but with a just and benevolent one desiring to help all its suffering people regardless of their political leanings.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we thank the President for his Address, but we regret that it contains no recognition of the Government's many failings and the damage this has inflicted on our beloved nation.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole House is grateful and thanks. His Excellency, the President for his gracious speech addressed to the joint sitting of the two Houses on which we are holding discussion. Recently, the President has returned from his successful official tour of France which enhanced the prestige of India as well as it strengthened our friendly relations with France.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 26-29 hon'ble Members took part in this discussion. Smt. Sonia Gandhi delivered her maiden speech, for which I congratulate her....(Interruptions) Our National Democratic Alliance Government is in power for more than two years. It is true that one election was held in between and instead of 12th Lok Sabha we are Members of 13th Lok Sabha. But correct evaluation can only be done when we look at the overall performance of this Government during the last two years.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that we look into some earlier events. We have got to view the situation prevailing in the country during Pokhran in order to deliberate about Kargil. Though the Pokhran tests showed the might of our country but we had to face adverse criticism at the international level. Not only that we had to face criticism within the country also where it was stated that India will

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

be left isolated due to this Pokhran tests. The outcome of Pokhran was Kargil. Both the incidents took place in the month of May-one in 1998 and other in 1999. But there was wide variation between them. Can anybody say today that India is isolated because of our policy? Can anybody say that the credibility of India at the international level took a nosedive because of this? We also used to criticize and in future also if we get the opportunity to sit there we will show you the way criticism is done.

But we are helpless if you do not give opportunity to us. Mr. Speaker, Sir, even now Lahore Bus Service is being criticized. I do not know how you take it but this is a fact that due to Lahore Bus Service India's image has been enhanced at the international arena and gave the message that India indeed wanted peace and was ready to do anything to achieve this. Whole world is praising our approach and our opposition! Why this is happening.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We removed forces from Kargil on the instructions of America.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our journey for the last two years has been journey of the nation marching ahead. India is an old Nation but at this time it is young because most of the population is of young people. Today 60 per cent of our population is below 35 years of age and we have to fulfill their expectations and provide opportunities for their development. Economic sanctions were imposed after Pokhran tests and we faced them. Still sanctions are there but the country which imposed sanctions have understood that they cannot overlook India. The reason for this is the emerging power of India and I agree that it did not happen in two years or two days. I also accept the fact that they have also contributed a lot who are sitting in opposition today to help India reaching this stage. But they are not ready to accept. Sometimes they even hesitate in taking our names.....(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Spaker, Sir, it is not necessary to remind me that there was a caretaker Government and election was round the corner when Kargil war started and perhaps capitalizing the prevailing opportunity we were targeted. But our forces has shown their might and commanding officers managed well resulting in victory which was a victory of the entire country. Kindly look at my speech which I delivered in and out of Parliament as a leader of opposition after Bangladesh war and creation of an independent Bangladesh the way you spoke after the Kargil war will be witness by the people in the years to come.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Kindly read what did you say after the Chinese attack.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the changes occurred in the life of Nation during the last two years is because of political and social stability. We have come in the era of coalition Governments. Our colleagues from opposition are forced to join such Governments. It is different thing that they join Government only when all Members of their party are made Ministers. we have 24 parties but we are working together with them smoothly. For this all parties have to fulfil their responsibilities. But because of the political stability at the Centre the country has progressed and will further prosper.

Several unfortunate incidents takes place just as Christians were targeted in Uttar Pradesh recently. The entire House condemn this. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has been asked to look into these incidents. The Ministry of Home Affairs is conducting thorough investigation in this regard. Culprits will be apprehended and stern action will be taken against them. But it does not do justice to the country and its culture to claim that only a particular political party will protect the secularism in the country. We have faith in secularism but our secularism is not discriminatory. All the religions should be treated at par and respected. This is secularism and it is positive secularism. This is fundamental to our constitution and all are committed to it. This should not be used to serve the political or party interests.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, till some time back India and Pakistan were one identity and after partition Pakistan came into existence. We wish to see Pakistan a prosperous country. There should not be any misconception in the minds of Pakistani people that we do not accept existence of Pakistan and we want to establish cordial and friendly relations with Pakistan and not that of hatred. If Pakistan wants to build its future on the hostility against India, I am sure it will not succeed in its design. We have opted for democracy. In our country power is changing hands smoothly. Though there are some difficulties but it is the transitional period of democracy. We will overcome these difficulties and despite these difficulties multi party democracy is successful in our country. Pakistan has deviated from the path of democracy. The day on which our Government was taking oath of office in Delhi it was reported in the newspapers that duly elected Government in Pakistan have been dissolved and the Prime Minister has been arrested and the Army has taken over the reins of the country. This depicts difference between the democracy in the two countries. Pakistan is not trying to understand as to why it is being isolated in the world community? In the commonwealth conference all the countries have endorsed the proposal to oust Pakistan from commonwealth.

It is not a matter of pleasure for us but it should be a matter of concern for Pakistan as to why it is getting isolated in the world community. We are willing to improve relations with Pakistan but Pakistan should take initiative in this regard. Pakistan should create congenial atmosphere for this. If terrorist activities are continued if ISI keeps on increasing its activities in various parts of our country, if violation of line of control is continued and if propaganda of hatred against India is continued as such conducive atmosphere cannot be created for undertaking meaningful dialogue. Therefore we demand and I want to make it clear that we have feelings of goodwill and friendship in our minds towards the people of Pakistan. Efforts are being made to improve relations at people to people level but the nature of talks will depend on as to what is the intention of political losses across the border. I went to Lahore for talks but intrusion by Pakistan in Kargil came in the way. I do not want to undertake any such new journey. Pakistan will have to change its attitude. The line of control should be honoured.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: This is not a diplomacy, it is mere a drama.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHAYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar appears to be the villain of the drama.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The people who are in favour of fresh talks and who want meaningful conclusion of talk they should also keep in view the fate of the agreements signed earlier with our neighbouring country. Simla agreement has been violated and Lahore declaration has been discredited. Now invitations are being given for the further talks and to reach the new accords. Efforts are being made to sign new treaties at the cost of old ones. It is not possible. There is unanimity in the country in this regard. We are in favour of friendship but friendship cannot be unilateral.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the American President Shri Bill Clinton had visited our country last month and his visit has been very useful. I hope his visit will contribute in improving the relations between the two countries and relations between us will acquire new dimensions. It is a matter of satisfaction that there is a change in the stand of America on Kashmir issue and America is in favour of maintaining the sanctity of line of control. The massacre of Sikh brethren in Jammu and Kashmir during the stay of the President Bill Clinton has made it clear to our American friends that this question is related to get their demand fulfilled through terrorism rather than taking public opinion into account.

Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and it will remain so. America is of the view that borders cannot be demarcated with blood and it is a positive attitude and we hope that further steps will be taken on the basis of this.

America has recognised the increasing importance of India in the field of economy trade and information technology. The vision statement signed by me and the President Bill Clinton will give multi dimensional shape to relations between our two countries and due to this our relations will improve further and I believe our friendship will be based on equality. Just before the visit of the American President a confusion was created in the minds of the people of the country that he is coming here to pressurise us to sign the CTBT. We have had clear discussion on CTBT in a cordinal way and the question of any pressure does not arise. If we have succeeded in improving the credibility of the country during the last two years, its main reason is that we have refused to succumb to any power. America is also aware of our position in this regard. We are going through the process of talks on CTBT and will form unanimity in this regard and I assure you that any decision in this regard will be taken after consulting you.

I would also like to mention the question which has arisen due to difference of opinion with congress and it should be clarified. A delegation of congress party call upon the President Bill Clinton what transpired between them. Whether there was discussion on a unrestrained minimum nuclear deterrent. The spokesmen of congress have given different versions in this regard. There was no doubt in our mind but these two versions have created some doubt. It can be cleared here at the moment by the congress president Shrimati Sonia Gandhi if she desire to do so....(Interruptions)... The Home Minister is of the view that this should be left aside. I am not raising this question for creating any controversy. If this is the stand of congress I welcome it because there should not be any difference of opinion between the political parties on the issue of nuclear. All the earlier Prime Ministers have also been trying to make India a nuclear power without making any announcement to this effect. The present Government thought that this is the right time and we went ahead in this direction. We welcome all the political parties to be unanimous on this issue as national security is the prime concern and it should not be made an issue of party politics.

During the past two years economic condition of India has improved. What the leader of opposition has said does not depicts the correct picture. Whether it is a fact that annual growth rate of GDP has improved?

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier this rate was 5.00 percent and now it has become 5.9 percent and I believe it will increase further. We are expecting it to increase upto 6.5 percent. Till some year ago it was 2.00 percent or 3.00 percent, now this growth rate is increasing. Is it not the result of a successful economic policy? I am sure that we will be able to achieve the growth rate of 7.00 to 8.00 percent. The growth rate of industrial production has exceeded 8.00 percent. In March 1998 the growth rate of industrial production was 6.6 percent. Earlier our foreign exchange reserve was 26 billion dollar which has increased upto 35 billion dollar. These are factual datas. These datas reflects improvement in our economy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not claiming that this is the result of the policies we have followed during the last two years. To be very frank we have been inherited some policies in the economic sector and some of them are really very good and few were not good....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): You have pursued the wrong policies.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We have not pursued the wrong policies. I am surprised to see that our friends are retreading from the policies they have pursued earlier. Is it not correct that there is a change in the stand of congress party on the issue of subsidy. What is the reason for this change?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Prime Minister yield and you permit me I would like to make a point.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since we both belong to Gwalior you cannot make me to yield.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: First it should be made clear whether you are from Batukeshwar or from Gwalior.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am from Lucknow. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of subsidy has to be considered once again. All the political parties should think over this issue collectively. Subsidy meant for poor should continue. Arrangement should be made to provide subsidy to poor wherever it is necessary. The necessary steps in the field of economy will be taken to provide foodgrain, water, houses and for raising the standard of living. In the matter of fertilizers the benefit of subsidy did not reach to farmers to the desired extent. What is the price of Urea in the world market? We wish that our plants should run but our Urea plants are lying closed....(Interruptions)

Yes, I know the United Front Government left these plants in this condition. How much should be the subsidy? When I was in opposition our communist friends used to talk about the public sector....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We are still talking about the public sector.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Yes you are still talking about the public sector.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You were with us on this issue. You have crossed over....(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: At that time also we were against the quota permit raj....(Interruptions) You used to talk about taking the public sector to the commanding high. What is the condition today? Labourers have been rendered jobless. Payments of salary to them has become a compulsion....(Interruptions). What can be done in respect of the factories which cannot be revived? You are also doing same in the West Bengal....(Interruptions)....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You should take individual units into consideration. I have said this repeatedly....(Interruptions).... I have said this to the previous Governments and I have also said this to you....(Interruptions) You should revive the factories which can be revived....(Interruptions)....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: This is exactly what we are doing....(Interruptions)....

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am challenging you. Mr. Prime Minister, you appoint somebody. Let us sit unit by unit. Are you accepting that?... (Interruptions). We have told that if any unit can never be revived, we shall agree to that....(Interruptions)....

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You start from the West Bengal....(Interruptions)....

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We will cooperate with you....(Interruptions)...

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: First you should make efforts for the revival....(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We have divided the public sector undertakings in three categories. The first category is of those undertakings which are running in profit.....(*Interruptions*). Second category is of which efforts should be made to run them in profit, in respect of which our efforts can be fruitful. Third category is where no alternative is left then closing them. We will have to consider the future of the labourers working therein. There cannot be any difference of opinion in respect of this policy. But you are not allowing the practice you are adopting in West Bengal for the rest of the country....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No unit is being closed in West Bengal....(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUDIR BANDYOPADHYAYA: Industries are not running in West Bengal. All units have been closed down....(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: If there are such undertakings which can be run by providing some assistance then we are ready to make them viable....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? When the hon. Prime Minister is giving the reply, this is not the proper way....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Your Ministers or Government do that....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: A group of Minister has been formed to consider this issue....(*Interruptions*)...

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Topdar, you are a senior member, how can you object to the hon. Prime Minister?...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. ...(*Interruptions*)...

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I want that consensus should be reached in respect of economic reforms....(*Interruptions*)...

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Topdar, please take your seat. The hon. Prime Minister is giving the reply....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? You are also a senior Member. You know the procedure....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No cross talk, please. What is this?

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is neither the matter of West Bengal nor a matter pertaining to a particular political party. My communist friends must be aware of the matter of IDPL which is being reexamined and efforts are being made to revive that....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Exactly this is what we have been demanding....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We will congratulate them for their good deeds....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: But you do not do that....(*Interruptions*) We have to work so hard to earn your appreciation. This matter should be discussed collectively....(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajan, UP): The fertilizer factory of Gorakhpur is lying closed....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, what are you doing, please?

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: There is another point regarding review of the constitution and I would like to mention that. I do not know as to why Shrimati Sonia Gandhi did not touch this point today.

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

13.00 hrs.

Perhaps, she has thought that this issue has been discussed adequately outside the House and there is no need to mention it here. I would like to clarify regarding the campaign being launched about Constitution Review Commission.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: That is correct.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: That is not dignified. It cannot be insult to Dr. Ambedkar....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): The Government has no right to appoint Review Commission....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, please take your seat. This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, please take your seat. Otherwise, I will take action against you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Prime Minister is giving reply and you are not listening to him patiently.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except hon. Prime Minister's speech.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, debate on provisions of the constitution have been going on since it came into existence. Amendments have also been made into it and some major amendments have been made. What happened during emergency. What type of measures were taken, I do not want to discuss that.

* Not recorded.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: That was wrong and it is also wrong....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except hon. Prime Minister's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. What is this? Shri Akhilesh Singh, what are you doing in the House?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Sir, we have listened to them without disturbing the House. Now they are disturbing the House....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: In the beginning itself while referring to the commission we clarified that the basic structure of the constitution which includes secularism will not be changed at all....(Interruptions) it will be incorporated into it if it is not there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, you are always disturbing the House. Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1976, under the Chairmanship of Sardar Swarn Singh, Congress Party constituted a committee to consider various provisions of the constitution and also to consider the amendments. It is the proposal of AICC....(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: They were doing wrong. Will you also do that?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What was suggested?

* Not recorded.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Sir, That was a party committee and not a Government. I was a member of that committee....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: If you yield, I will conclude my point in two minutes....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are a senior Member. The Prime Minister is replying. If you have any clarification, you can ask that after the Prime Minister's reply. What is this. How can you do it now?

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Whether the proposal of the party was not for implementation. Then why party presented such proposal?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It was wrong....(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What is the proposal, please listen to it. I am quoting.—

[English]

"The Congress, therefore, urges that our Constitution be thoroughly examined to ascertain if the time has not come to make adequate alterations to it so that it may continue as a living document, effectively responding to the current needs of the people and the demands of the present."

[Translation]

What will be done by this commission. Whether any separate terms of Reference have been fixed for it. It will review. Review means to have a second look.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except hon. Prime Minister's reply.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No interruptions, please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the Prime Minister's reply.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? I do not understand this. Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I appeal to the Leader of Opposition. We heard in pin drop silence. Nobody interrupted her. Now, almost every time all her Members are interrupting....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: This is not a question. Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no need to tell about the Members of this commission. Their authenticity and ability is above board. They will give their recommendations, which will be presented in the Parliament. Parliament will consider and accept any recommendation if it want to do so....(Interruptions) Later on, a bill regarding constitution amendment will be brought in the House and 2/3 majority will be required for passage of the Bill. Why are you so worried. There is no need to worry for that....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the Prime Minister's speech.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much. Shri Ramdas Athawale, this is too much. Please take your seat.

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Some hon. Members are agitated over this issue which does not indicate that their arguments are strong and rational. Review of constitution is a continuous process and it will continue in future also. Earlier also amendments have been made in the constitution and it will be done in future also. Constitution is not a rigid document which cannot be amended....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): Why it is not being reviewed in the Parliament.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: When commission submits its report, it will be considered in the Parliament....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prakash Ambedkar, Please take your seat. Nothing should go on record except the hon. Prime Minister's speech. Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)...*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No cross talk please.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Parliamentary Committee could have been constituted....(*Interruptions*) There should be no objection in setting up commission....(*Interruptions*) Please take your seat. You are raising finger on ability of hon'ble Members of the commission....(*Interruptions*) You have objections against them....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prakash Ambedkar, please take your seat. If you have anything, you can ask the Prime Minister afterwards, not now.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, you are always disturbing the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Is it not the reply of the Prime Minister? Tell me.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the hon. Prime Minister's speech.

(*Interruptions*)...*

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a saying in Sanskrit that when you cannot prove your point rationally then 'Shesham kopen pooryen' which means that remaining part is completed by expression of anger....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, UP): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is correct that Members should not disturb the speech of hon. Prime Minister. But your this decision will prove to be a mistake....(*Interruptions*) You can speak more loudly but it is not going to affect me....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Let them speak like this.

[*Translation*]

I would like to make a submission. The constitution was framed by representatives of people. It would have been proper if the proposal of setting up a commission for review of the constitution was brought in the Parliament. It would have been done easily as your party enjoys majority in the House. But you have acted at a wrong time and thereby violating the spirit of the constitution and over-riding the authority of this august House. The Government should admit this fact....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am happy that Chandra Shekharji has not opposed the setting up of the commission but criticised the manner of setting up it. There may be difference of opinion in matter of procedure....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I have no difference of opinion regarding Members of the Commission because I do not know as to who they are? But several Members of this House are expert of the constitution. Members like Shri Nariman, Shri Anand and several other MPs are here....(*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The report will be presented here itself.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I would like to say that it will be against the dignity of the constitution and the House to allow any external commission to interfere in matters relating to the constitution. You can discuss it if you know about the constitution....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Commissions have been set up earlier also and these will be set up in future also....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I remember that earlier Swam Singh Committee was constituted and at that time myself and the Prime Minister both were of the view that it was a wrong step....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Hon. Prime Minister is replying.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am concluding....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: We should also be given a chance to speak....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Hon. Prime Minister yield for a minute?...(*Interruptions*) Today he is not yielding. I do not know why. Generally he does....(*Interruptions*) He is very uneasy about this point....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if there is difference of opinion over the issue of commission then I would like to say....(*Interruptions*)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): That should be withdrawn....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You should withdraw your objections as these have no strong base and relate to the procedure only. Now the main point is....(*Interruptions*) You are in majority in Rajya Sabha and you will not let it pass there....(*Interruptions*) But it should be debated throughout the country....(*Interruptions*) Elections are being held for the last 50 years and people of this country are requesting for reform in electoral procedure....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Election Commission will do that....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Election Commission is doing. Election Commission can do that and not we....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Hon. Prime Minister, will you kindly yield for just a minute?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, he is not yielding.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)...*

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Whether the Government cannot think over it by setting up a commission....(*Interruptions*) After reviewing the constitution the commission will give its report as to what amendments should be made and what changes should be brought in it. That report will be presented in the Parliament and amendment bill will be brought for making any change in it. But it seems that opposition has decided to oppose all the works undertaken by the ruling party. They have no other point. I would like to say that you should reconsider it. There is no use to divide the House and the country over such an issue for which there is no basic difference. We want your cooperation and I hope that you will cooperate us in creating harmony in the country....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the decorum of the House to disturb when the Leader of the House is speaking?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Even senior Members are disturbing.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the speech of hon. Prime Minister.

(*Interruptions*)...*

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Consensus is needed on important issues for the future of the country but I find that except for the brief period after formation of the Government, the largest opposition party is trying to oppose every issue, having lost its popularity. Their attitude is negative....(Interruptions) Several States are still in the grip of drought.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Just now you thanked congress party for cooperating....(Interruptions) Now you are saying that they are opposing. What opposition is there....(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You can decide that with each other....(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: On the one hand you express gratitude to Sonia Gandhiji but on the other hand you say that they are opposing....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we always opposed it and will oppose it in future.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they work in collusion. The whole country knows that Samajwadi Party is fighting against BJP and Congress Party is fighting against Samajwadi Party.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, several parts of the country are in the grip of severe drought. This issue has already been debated in the House. All the hon'ble Members are concerned about it. Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and also Madhya Pradesh....(Interruptions) I have not enlisted all the States. I have no intention to leave any State. Our objective is to provide assistance to every State. Such an issue should not be politicised but unfortunately politics was played in case of Orissa and stress was laid to declare it a major calamity, which was not essential and we tried to provide the required assistance.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: You have proposed to hold a comprehensive debate on this issue. I do not understand as to what do you want to do?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You want to know that. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are trying our best for providing assistance. There is need to work collectively. Fodder for cattle is being arranged. Trains are being run for this purpose. Arrangements for drinking water is also necessary and required measures are being taken in spite of differences, such issues should be dealt collectively. I seek cooperation of the whole House on it. An all-party meeting has been convened today. You should take part in it. While extending assistance the Central Government will not discriminate States on the basis of political party

in power there. We will provide assistance to all. We are all native of this country and it is our duty to help our countrymen at the time of distress. Your contribution is essential in it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have taken much time. I intended to make a short speech but due to interruptions my speech overspilled. I am grateful to this House....(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I conclude.

[English]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: A number of amendments have been moved by Members on the Motion of Thanks. Shall I put all the amendments to the vote of the House together or does any hon. Member want any particular amendment to be put to vote separately?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I want that my amendment be put to the vote of the House separately....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, what is your amendment number?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is amendment number 276. This is regarding rise in prices of essential commodities which has hit the common people in our country....(Interruptions) Sir, he has not spoken anything about rise in prices of essential commodities....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: On the Motion of Thanks, many hon. Members asked questions and the hon. Prime Minister gave the reply also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The Prime Minister has not spoken anything about the rising prices of essential commodities....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate with the Chair. Shri Madhavrao Scindia, how many times has the hon. Prime Minister given the reply? How many times has he intervened? Please understand that. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: It will always happen, Sir. Every Speaker has given a chance. We have a right to seek clarifications....(Interruptions)